Munichi language

Munichi is a recently extinct language which was spoken in the village of Munichis, about 10 miles (16 km) west of Yurimaguas, Loreto Region, Peru. In 1988, there were two mother-tongue speakers, but they had not met since the 1970s. The last known fluent speaker, Victoria Huancho Icahuate, died in the late 1990s. As of 2009 there were several semi-speakers who retained significant lexical, and partial grammatical, knowledge of the language (Michael et al. 2013).

It is also called *Balsapuertiño*, named after the village of Balsapuerto in the department of Loreto, Peru.[2]

Word order in Munichi is VSO.[3][4]

Munichi	
Muniche	
Native to	Peru
Region	Loreto
Extinct	late 1990s, with the death of Victoria Huancho Icahuate
Language family	Macro-Arawakan ?
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	`myr`
Glottolog	muni1258 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/muni1258)[1]

Location of Munichi

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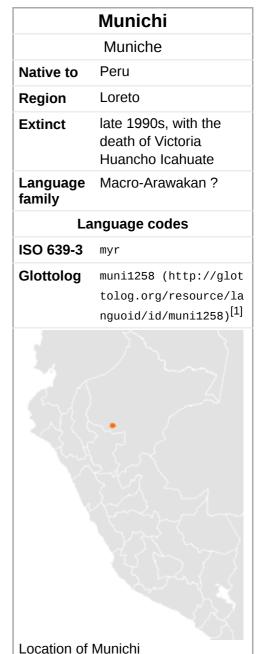
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Other varieties

Unattested "Munichi stock" varieties listed by Loukotka (1968):[2]

- **Tabaloso** - spoken in Loreto department in the village of Tabalosa on the Mayo River
- **Chasutino (Cascoasoa)** - once spoken in the village of Chasuta on the Huallaga River; now only Quechua is spoken.
- **Huatama (Otanavi)** - once spoken in the villages of San José de Sisa and Otanahui in the same region; now only Quechua is spoken.
- **Lama (Lamista)** - extinct language once spoken on the Moyobamba River. The last survivors now speak only Quechua or Spanish.
- **Suchichi (Suriche)** - extinct language once spoken in the village of Tarapoto in the same region
- **Zapaso** - extinct language from the same region, once spoken on the Saposoa River
- **Nindaso** - once spoken on the Huallaga River north of the Zapaso tribe
- **Nomona** - once spoken on the left bank of the Saposoa River

Varieties listed by Mason (1950):[5]

- **Muniche**
- **Muchimo**
- **Otanabe**
- **Churitana**

Classification

The language is considered an isolate (Michael et al. 2013), but the pronominal suffixes bear a close resemblance to those reconstructed for proto-Arawakan (Gibson 1996:18-19), and some lexical items are similar to ones in Arawakan languages (Jolkesky 2016:310-317).[6] Although Jolkesky (*id.*) argues that the language belongs to a putative Macro-Arawakan stock, evidence has yet to be provided for placing it either in a sister branch to the Arawakan language family or in a branch within this language family. There is substantial borrowing from the local variety of Quechua, and to a lesser extent from Spanish and Cahuapanan languages (Michael et al. 2013).

Language contact

Jolkesky (2016) notes that there are lexical similarities with the Cholon-Hibito, Kechua, and Mochika language families due to contact.[7]

Phonology

Munichi has six vowels: /a, e, i, ɨ, o, u/.[8]

Consonants

		Bilabial	Alveolar	Palato-alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	voiceless	p	t			c	k	ʔ
	voiced		d				g	
Affricate			t͡s	t͡ʃ	ʈʂ			
Fricative			s	ʃ	ʂ	ç		h
Nasal		m	n			ɲ		
Approximant			l			j	w	
Flap			ɾ					

Vocabulary

Loukotka (1968) lists the following basic vocabulary items for Munichi.[2]

gloss	Munichi
one	wuítsa
two	utspa
three	uchuma
head	óke
ear	épue
tooth	dé
fire	chúshe
stone	sögte
sun	xowá
moon	spáltsi
maize	sáa
dog	xíno
boat	niasúta

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